Status of the claims

1.   (currently amended) A method of playing a ~~modified~~
~~blackjack~~ card game comprising:

providing at least one set of playing cards, each card in
   the set of the playing cards having a specific numeric
   value;

having at least one player make ~~placing~~ a wager ~~by at least~~
   ~~one player~~;

dealing an initial hand of cards to the player and the
   dealer, the player's cards being face up and at least one
   of the dealer's cards being face down;

thereafter, having the player declare ~~declaring~~ the player's
   hand either as a poker hand or a modified blackjack hand
   ~~by the player~~;

dealing additional cards to the player to enable the player
   to form a complete poker hand if the player declares his
   ~~or her~~ hand as a poker hand;

awarding winnings to the player based on the wager and a

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first payout schedule if the poker hand represented by
the player's cards matches any one of a plurality of
predetermined poker hands;

having ~~requiring~~ the player ~~to~~ forfeit his ~~or~~ wager and
withdraw from play if the player fails to achieve a
winning poker hand;

determining if the total numeric value of the player's
initial hand equals a first predetermined number if the
player declares his ~~or her~~ initial hand as a modified
blackjack hand, the first predetermined number being
chosen from 31, 41 and 51;

determining if the total numeric value of the dealer's
initial hand equals the first predetermined number;

paying winnings to the player based on the wager and a
second payout schedule if the total numeric value of the
player's initial hand equals the first predetermined
number and the total numeric value of the dealer's
initial hand is not equal to the first predetermined
number;

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dealing additional cards to the player upon the player's

request;

having ~~requiring~~ the player ~~to~~ forfeit his ~~or her~~ wager and

withdraw from play if the total numeric value of the

player's hand exceeds the first predetermined number;

dealing additional cards to the dealer as long as the total

numeric value of the dealer's hand is less than a second

predetermined number which is less than the first

predetermined number and requiring the dealer to hold as

soon as the total numeric value of the dealer's hand is

equal to or exceeds the second predetermined number; and

paying winnings to the player based on the wager and the

second payout schedule if the player has a winning hand.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1

further comprising:

providing the winner of the modified blackjack card game

with an opportunity to play in a subsequent card game

with the dealer;

having ~~requiring~~ the player make ~~to place~~ a wager that is

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equal to either half the amount of the winnings paid to the player or the full amount of the winnings paid to the player if the player assents to playing the dealer in the subsequent card game; and

playing the subsequent card game.

3.   (cancelled)

4.   (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the first predetermined number is 31 and the second predetermined number is 25.

5.   (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined poker hand is chosen from a pair, two pair, three of a kind, straight, flush, full house, four of a kind, five of a kind, straight flush and royal flush.

6.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ three cards are dealt to the player and to the dealer in the initial deal ~~consist of three cards~~.

7.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ four cards are dealt to the player and to the dealer in the initial deal ~~consist of four cards~~.

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8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ five cards are dealt to the player and to the dealer in the initial deal ~~consist of five cards~~.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one set of playing cards includes at least one Joker Card.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~19~~ 2 wherein the ~~second~~ subsequent card game is ~~high-low~~ high/low.

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